GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
ABSTRACT

PUBLIC SERVICES – Fisheries Department – Misappropriation of subsidy amount released for the purchase of boat engines – Sri K. Venkateswara Rao, the then Fisheries Development Officer, Katrenikona, East Godavari district - Departmental proceedings under rule 20 of Andhra Pradesh Civil Services (CCA) Rules, 1991 - Penalty of stoppage of one Annual Grade Increment without cumulative effect besides recovery of Rs.3,35,000/-(Rupees three lakhs and thirty five thousand only) – Orders - Issued.

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ANIMAL HUSBANDRY DAIRY DEVELOPMENT & FISHERIES (Dy.&Vig.) DEPARTMENT

G.O.RT.No. 229 **Dated: 26-09-2019**

Read the following:-

1. From the G.A.(V&E) Dept., Vigilance Report No.127, Dt. 04.12.2013.
2. Govt. Memo. No.6953/VS.2/2013, dated: 20.02.2014.
3. From the Commissioner of Fisheries, A.P., Lr.No.8892/A2/2012, Dt.01.04.2015.
4. G.O.Rt.No.140, AHDD& F (Dy. &.Vig.) Dept., Dt.26.05.2015.
5. From the Commissioner of Fisheries, A.P., Lr.No.8892/A2/2012, Dt.22.09.2015 along with defense statements of COs.
6. Govt. Memo. No.6953/Dy. & Vig.(2)/2013, Dt. 08.10.2015.
7. From the COF., A.P., Vijawayada, Lr.No.8892/A2/2012, Dt. 24.11.2016.
8. Govt.Memo.No.6953/Dy&Vig(2)/2013, Dt.06.01.2017.
9. From the Commissioner of Fisheries, A.P., Lr.No.8892/A2/2012, Dt.20.01.2017.
10. G.O. Rt.No.137 and 138, AHDD&F(Dy. & Vig.) Dept., Dt.11.05.2017.
11. From the Commissioner of Fisheries, A.P., Lr.No.8892/A2/2012, Dt.08.02.2018.
12. Govt.Showcause.Memo.No.6953/Dy&Vig(2)/2011-2, Dated: 18.09.2018
13. Govt.Memo.No.6953/Dy.&Vig/2013-4, Dt.18.9.2018.
14. From the Commissioner of Fisheries, A.P., Lr.No.8892/A2/2012, Dt.16.05.2019.
15. Govt.Memo.No.6953/Dy.&Vig/2013, Dt. 06.06.2019.
16. From the Commissioner of Fisheries, A.P., Lr.No.8892/A2/2012, Dt.23.07.2019

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Whereas, it was brought to the notice of the Government that misappropriation of subsidy amount released for the purchase of Boat Engines by the Fisheries Department Officials, in East Godavari district;

2. And whereas, in the reference 4th cited, the following charges have been framed against Sri K. Venkateswara Rao, the then Fisheries Development Officer, Katrenikona, East Godavari district along with other officials for the irregularities committed under Rule 20 of the A.P. Civil Services (Classification, Control & Appeal) Rules, 1991. The Charged officers have submitted their explanations to the charges framed against them:-

Charge-1: "That Sri K. Venkateswara Rao, the then FDO, Katrenikona, East Godavari District forwarded the list of 42 beneficiaries prepared by the Boat Engine Dealer, Sri R. Veeraraju, without conducting any Grama Sabha. Finally units were not distributed on subsidy to anyone".

Charge-2: "That Sri K. Venkateswara Rao, the then FDO, Katrenikona, East Godavari District obtained false sale bills and records from M/s. Om Sai Ram Marine Enterprises, Kakinada for 35 IBMs @ Rs.44,000/- and made entries in the stock register as if the boat engines are received and distributed to 35 beneficiaries of Balusutippa, H/o Brahmasamedhyam (V), Katrenikona Mandal of East Godavari Dist."

Charge-3: "That Sri K. Venkateswara Rao, the then FDO, Katrenikona, East Godavari District on 10.4.2013, organized function with the help if Ex-Sarpanch in Balusutippa village, taken photos & receipts from 35 beneficiaries who were handed over to them without actually distributing on a false promise the boat engines will be distributed later and also obtained signatures of the beneficiaries and counter signature of the local MLA".

Charge-4: "That Sri K. Venkateswara Rao, the then FDO, Katrenikona, East Godavari District accepted Rs.1,05,000/- illegal gratification from the Dealer towards accepting false bills and sanction of subsidy of Rs.7,70,000/- for 35 IBMs from Sri R. Veeraraju, of M/s Om Sai Ram Marine Enterprises, Kakinada."

(PTO)

Charge-5: "That Sri K. Venkateswara Rao, the then FDO, Katrenikona, East Godavari District caused for misappropriation of Govt. subsidy of Rs.7,70,000/- sanctioned for grounding of 35 In Board Machines (IBMs) to fishermen of Balusutippa village and made them ineligible for claiming subsidy on IBMs in future".

3. And whereas, in the reference 10th cited, Sri P. Koteswara Rao, Joint Director of Fisheries, Machilipatnam, Krishna district and Sri V. Venkateswara Rao, Asst. Director of Fisheries, Visakhapatnam have been appointed as Inquiring Authority and Presenting Officer respectively, to conduct enquiry into the charges framed against Sri K. Venkateswara Rao, the then Fisheries Development Officer, Katrenikona, East Godavari district along with other officials of Fisheries Department under rule 24 of Andhra Pradesh Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules 1991;

4. And whereas, in the reference 11th cited, the Commissioner of Fisheries, A.P., has forwarded the findings of the Inquiry Officer, wherein the Inquiring Authority, inter-alia it is found that Sri K. Venkateswara Rao, the then Fisheries Development Officer, Katrenikona, is responsible in committing certain grave irregularities in following the procedure and guidelines like conduct of Grama Sabha, identification of genuine beneficiaries, grounding and distribution of Units while implementing the scheme and he is liable to recover 1/2 of the amount i.e., Rs.3,35,000/- against the total of the misappropriated amount of Rs.7,70,000/- for his involvement, with suitable punishment as per CCA Rules;

5. And whereas, in the reference 12th read above, while enclosing the findings of the Enquiry, show-cause notice has been issued to Sri K. Venkateswara Rao, the then Fisheries Development Officer, Katrenikona, East Godavari district to explain / Show-cause as to why suitable penalty should not be imposed against him under rule 20 read with rule 9 of the Andhra Pradesh Civil Services (CCA) 1991. The written statement of defense from the individual was received through the Commissioner of Fisheries, Andhra Pradesh, vide reference 14th read above, which is not convincible.

6. After careful examination of the matter in detail with material available on record, Government have decided to impose a penalty of stoppage of one Annual Grade Increment without cumulative effect on Sri K. Venkateswara Rao, the then Fisheries Development Officer, Katrenikona, East Godavari district, besides recovery of Rs.3,35,000/- (Rupees three lakhs and thirty five thousand only). Accordingly, Government hereby order to impose a penalty of stoppage of "one Annual Grade Increment without cumulative effect" against Sri K. Venkateswara Rao, the then Fisheries Development Officer, Katrenikona, East Godavari district, under the provisions of the Andhra Pradesh Civil Services (CCA) Rules, 1991, besides recovery of Rs.3,35,000/- (Rupees three lakhs and thirty five thousand only).

7. The Commissioner of Fisheries, Andhra Pradesh, Vijayawada shall take necessary further action in the matter accordingly.

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF ANDHRA PRADESH)

Dr. POONAM MALAKONDAIAH
SPECIAL CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

To
Sri K. Venkateswara Rao, the then Fisheries Development Officer, Katrenikona, East Godavari district Through the Commissioner of Fisheries, Andhra Pradesh, Vijayawada.
The Commissioner of Fisheries, Andhra Pradesh, Vijayawada.
Copy to:
The Accountant General, Andhra Pradesh, Hyderabad/Vijayawada.
The Director of Treasuries and Accounts, Andhra Pradesh, Vijayawada.
The Pay and Accounts, Andhra Pradesh, Vijayawada.
The District Treasury Officer concerned.
The A.P. Vigilance Commission, A.P. Secretariat, Velagapudi.
SF/SC.

//FORWARDED::BY ORDER//

SECTION OFFICER